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The treatment of the body in the fiction of JM Coetzee

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The Treatment of the Body in the Fiction of JM Coetzee

by

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[i]f I look back over my own fiction I see a (simple-minded?) standard erected. That standard is the body. Whatever else, the body is the not "that which is not", and the proof that it is the pain that it feels. The body with its pain becomes a counter to the endless trials of doubt […] Let me put it baldly: in South Africa it is not possible to deny the authority of suffering and therefore of the body […] And let me again be unambiguous: it is not that one grants the authority of the suffering body: the suffering body takes this authority (Doubling 248).